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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Chesser, et al.

Serial No.: 08/869,109

Filed: June 4, 1997

For: Controlled Hydration of Starch  
in High Density Brine Dispersion



Group Art Unit: 1721

Examiner: C. H. Kelly

Atty. Docket: B154-9245-US

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

BOX AF  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

This paper is filed in response to the final office action mailed December 8, 1998.

AMENDMENTS

**RECEIVED**

FEB 09 1999

**GROUP 1700**

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method for producing a precursor polymer dispersion for  
addition to a brine for use in drilling and completion operations comprising:  
providing a precursor brine comprising an aqueous solution of a first salt at a first  
density, said first salt comprising cations consisting essentially of cations of  
one or more multivalent alkaline earth metals; and  
mixing a water-soluble polymer with said precursor brine at a first concentration and  
under first conditions, wherein said first density, said first concentration, and

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